

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO EDITH RENFROW SMITH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the other day I read an article in the Chicago Sun Times about an incredible Chicagoan named Edith Renfrow Smith.

Yesterday, Edith celebrated her 107th—let me say that again—107th birthday. And learning about her life story, it occurred to me that it is really the story of America. Edith is the grandchild of two people who were born into slavery. When she was 23, she became the first Black woman to graduate from Grinnell College in Iowa.

Think about that. In just two generations, her family went from enduring bondage to earning a bachelor's degree.

After she graduated, Edith traveled east to Chicago in search of job opportunities. She spent a few years working for the University of Chicago, and she even served as a secretary for the first Black Congressman to represent a district north of the Mason-Dixon Line: Oscar DePriest.

Eventually, Edith found her calling as a public school teacher. She devoted more than two decades of her life educating our city's children. One of her colleagues described her as a "master teacher."

As a resident of Hyde Park, where she raised a family with her husband Henry, Edith became close friends with Jazz legend Herbie Hancock. And in recent years, she has become something of a living legend herself. In 2019, her alma mater, Grinnell College, opened a new library named in Edith's honor: the Edith Renfrow Smith '37 Black Women's Library.

Edith is a humble person. She doesn't claim to know all the secrets to a long, happy life, like the one she has lived, but she does have a few suggestions.

She says, "You have to have respect for yourself."

"Don't let anyone disrespect you."

"Listen to what people say to each other."

That advice is worth keeping in mind as we work together in this Senate to solve the most pressing challenges facing America, like rebuilding our infrastructure. This body has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform our roadways and public transit systems, to secure a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren, and to bring broadband connectivity and clean drinking water to every community in America.

And while we have a lot of work ahead of us, I am confident that if we take Edith's advice—if we listen to one another—we can make real progress for the American people.

Edith, thank you for sharing your inspiring story, and thank you for choosing Chicago as your home.

I wish you the best on your 107th birthday.

NATIONAL MOTH WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 10th annual observance of National Moth Week, which will be celebrated this year from July 17 to 25.

What began as a plan for a statewide moth night in my home State of New Jersey evolved into a national week of recognition and quickly became an international citizen science project. In 2012, residents from East Brunswick, NJ, founded this initiative to promote the appreciation and conservation of moths and their important role in the ecosystem. Since then, thousands of people in all 50 U.S. States and 100 countries have participated in observing and documenting moths during this week.

National Moth Week encourages people of all ages and abilities to shine a light on nighttime nature and record what they see. Moths are incredibly diverse members of the Lepidoptera order of insects, with estimates of 150,000 to more than 500,000 moth species. They serve as pollinators of crops and flowers and a food source for birds and other fauna. Enriching mothing events have been held at U.S. National Parks and Monuments; State, county, and local parks; museums, libraries, nature centers, and backyards.

This scientific event is an all-volunteer effort coordinated by the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission with the assistance of a team of entomologists, researchers, educators, and enthusiasts around the world. In addition, country coordinators in Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and South America, and Australia are helping to increase awareness, study and appreciation of moths, their incredible diversity, and ecological importance in their own countries.

National Moth Week has brought people together from many different cultures and ethnicities for the purpose of observing and protecting an important natural resource and dispelling the negative conceptions some may have of moths. It proudly represents the best of the Garden State and its concern for the health of our environment and all of its inhabitants.

It is my great honor to recognize the anniversary of National Moth Week and celebrate the vibrant research and scientific community in the State of New Jersey.

REMEMBERING POLLY BEMIS

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, the State of Idaho has had a long history with Chinese immigration to both our cities and the wilderness areas of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Polly Bemis, the United States' most famous Chinese pioneer woman.

There have been many articles, books and even a full-length feature movie about Polly and her pioneering life in the mountains of Idaho. Born in China in 1853, she was sold by her parents and

smuggled into the United States. In 1872, Polly was brought to recently settled Warren, ID, as a slave. There, she met Charlie Bemis, a saloon owner and deputy sheriff, whom she wed in 1894 despite a State law prohibiting marriage between a White and non-White person.

Soon after Polly and Charlie wed, they moved to their homestead, the Bemis Ranch on the Salmon River, where they resided for many years. Polly was famed for her vast knowledge of medical treatments and her hospitality to friends and travelers alike venturing down the Salmon "River of No Return." Charlie died in 1922; however, Polly continued to live on her 27-acre ranch until shortly before her death in 1933 at the age of 80. Fifty-five years after her passing, Polly's cabin on Bemis Ranch was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As an early settler of the Idaho Territory and an enterprising Chinese immigrant, Polly Bemis left an exceptional legacy and an indelible mark on Idaho's history. While she did not receive U.S. citizenship during her lifetime, we honor her strength, industriousness, and pioneering spirit in our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1328. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Rescission of Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents: Notice of Vacatur" (RIN0584-AE87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1329. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus velezensis strain RT1301; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10025-21-